



HOTEL ESPLANADE
BERLIN

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KURFÜRST 6751

192

Moscow, Monday AM

Dearest Bimshire:

Well here I am all safe +
sound and ~~very~~ ~~safely~~ nothing — i.e. some-
what restless at not speaking Russian and not
yet having seen Dr Semashko nor had any
breakfast though it is now 10:30

The trip here was rather long. You
see I left Berlin Friday night, woke up in Königs-
berg and Sat evening had gotten into Riga
after crawling and dragging through Lithuania
and Latvia all day. Left Riga again at
^{Sat night} 11³⁵ and woke up in Estonia (I think) and got
across the border about 10 AM. Almost no formality.
Then all the rest of Sunday and till 9 Monday in Russia.

and I rather cursed myself for being too careful and sending the report back. However time will tell on that matter: I don't want to offend these people and it is certainly up to them to ~~see~~ show what they want to.

Well it's a great experience and all that I expected except that people are cheerier and better nourished than I'd expected. The peasants certainly have the prize for cow barn faces and when you add felt over shoes about 8 times too big, and mending garments of one sort or another the effect is of a bundled up apple woman on a street corner in the middle of winter.

The crowds look warmly dressed but

the clothes are coarse grimy and greasy and
the effect is not chic - to put it mildly.
The buildings look run down and near the
time when repairs will be in order, but there
was a surprising amount of building going on
outside Moscow as we came in.

Of course its winter here - deepish snow
everything on sleighs and consequently rather
quiet. The country was just exactly like the
Bayard Taylor (?) stories of Russian wolves
droshkies etc. and was really quite beautiful.
The train was comfortable though not very
quick and I never knew I had so much
German - but I can almost get along with
it.

The Savoy was full - till tomorrow I am
at another where no one speaks anything
but Russian but the room is good and
I'll get along. Gosh what a strange place

it is ! Some of the churches are fantastic even if they do look run down.

Things seem to move very slowly — if Semashko doesn't arrange a good deal for to be seen I shall see very little — but more of that later.

A week ago was I in Croissy ? It seems two weeks at least if not three ! Oh darlin cheerio and I'll be your Bobby Shafto before very long.

Your loving Alan.